**St Nicholas’ Primary School Parent Council Meeting 22 March 2022**

Meeting Title: St Nicholas’ Primary School Parent Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday 22 March 2022

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting Teams 6:30pm – 8:00pm

**ATTENDEES NAME ROLE INITIAL**

Rachael MacDonald Chair RM

Janine Peck Vice Chair JP

Donal McDermott St Andrew’s Parish Rep DM

Charlotte Grogan Head Teacher CG

Angela Murray Depute Head Teacher AM

Carol Lennon Depute Head Teacher CL

Aileen Darley Staff Representative AD

Aura Murphy Member AM

Gillian Harkness Member GH

Anne Quinn Member AQ

Margaret Clowes Member MC

Martin Paten Member MP

Laura Jardin Member LJ

Rebecca McGarry Member RM

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Signed: Rachael MacDonald 22 March 2022

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**Apologies:**

Vikki Rodger

Jane Eagan

Stephanie Bryson

Natalie Matheson

The Chair extended a welcome to the new member joining tonight. The P.7 parents wished to pass on their thanks to the staff who attended the Lockerbie residential trip with the P.7 pupils.

1. **Head Teachers Update:**

**P.7 Lockerbie Trip**

CG also extended her thanks to the staff who attended the p.7 residential and reported that the feedback from the staff at Lockerbie was extremely positive.

**Covid-19**

Rising cases are having an impact on staffing. As a school, we are trying to ensure continuity but this can be challenging.

The current mitigations from January are still in place. The Scottish government issued new guidance to local authorities last week that indicates that after Easter schools should return to normal – staggered entries and breaks should cease. However, EDC have yet to issue their guidance before we make any changes. The Scottish government say that social distancing is *recommended*. If this remains the case, we will have to keep the breaks etc. the same for now to meet this recommendation.

We have resumed school trips and joint class working. However, at present, 2 or more cases in a class is classed as an outbreak and would impact on whole school events such as assemblies.

We will be able to plans for Term 3 when we have the final guidance from EDC, however, We would not anticipate that there will be any large events being organised with parents and children. We have plans in place for P.1 transition that are ready to be implemented as soon as we have the EDC guidance.

The P.7 pupils have begun discussing how they would like to celebrate the end of the year. Once we have clear guidance from EDC, this will be confirmed.

**School Playground**

This week, the playground games have been painted onto the grounds. The benches have also been delivered and are nailed into the ground to ensure that they remain secure. We are also in the process of procuring items for planting.

**STEM Week**

Thanks to Mrs Murray who has co-ordinated the STEM week. We have had fantastic support from our parents also who have joined classes virtually.

**Parents’ Night**

Parents Night is next week and we will be using the online booking system. The school will send out a reminder to parents covering how to get on and highlighting the strict timeframe.

This is the same booking system that the school has used previously but 22 percent of parents did not make an appointment and the office staff had to contact parents directly.

**Equalities**

The draft Equalities policy has been sent out to parents. Training for this was introduced to staff pre-Covid and staff have also had time to review the lessons and materials. All lessons and materials are provided.

The approach focuses on inclusivity and looks at how we can address equality through our faith. The policy will be posted on the school website and an email sent out to parents to make them aware of this.

*It was noted by members that this is a welcome approach and policy.*

1. **P.7 Parents’ Celebration Night in St Andrews Hall**

The chair advised that the P.7 parents are planning a celebration for the pupils in the church hall in the final term. If mitigations have changed, the invite is open to all staff to attend.

If the guidance allows, staff are welcome to attend on a voluntary basis.

1. **P.1 Enrolment Numbers**

It was asked if there are final numbers for next year’s P.1 pupils and if the numbers were an improvement on last year. CG reported that this is now an EDC process and we have not been given final numbers as yet.

It was raised that the Youth Ministry are planning to organise a P.1 parents’ coffee afternoon. This will cover both parishes and the location will be confirmed.

Covid permitting, the PA may be able to organise the ‘Tea and Tears’ new parent coffee morning in the hall on the first day.

1. **Recycling of Uniforms**

It was asked if there could be an event organised in the church halls over the summer to allow parents to access pre-used uniform. CG agreed with this and said that the school would be supportive of this but the school doesn’t have the capacity to store used uniforms.

It was noted that the parish priest has agreed that the school can use the St Andrew’s hall but that it would need to cover both parishes. Organisers will also need to speak to the Hall Committees..

1. **School Driveway**

There have been increased incidences of dog’s dirt in the school driveway and path. As this is a public area, this may be happening outwith school hours. There has also been an increase of dogs at drop off and collection times. The chair will write to EDC requesting a sign and dog dirt bin. CG will also include a reminder of this in the weekly newsletter.

Parents driving up the driveway at restricted times has improved somewhat but is still and issue. GC reported that EDC are planning to paint double yellow lines down the side near the fencing, lower the pavement at the disabled parking bays and paint a zebra crossing there.

1. **Meeting Minutes**

It was highlighted that minutes of all Parent Council meetings should not include names of individuals and should be made available to members for approval and posted the website within a 2-week period. CG advised that there is a budget for a clerk to be employed to attend meetings and produce the minutes. This is something that the Parent Council will consider.

**Next Meeting: 14 June 6.30 – 8.00pm via Teams**